XCIV. *A further Account of the Effects of Electricity in the Cure of ſome Diſeaſes* *: *In a Letter from Mr.* Patrick Brydone *to Dr.* Robert Whytt, *Profeſſor of Medicine in the Univerſity of* Edinburgh, *and F.R.S.*

Coldinghame, January 9th, 1758.

Read May 11. 1758.

A Young woman of Aiton, a village about two miles from this place, had her right leg drawn back by a contraction of the muſcles that bend the knee, ſo that ſhe had not been able to put that foot to the ground for near a twelvemonth. She had taken the advice of ſome Surgeons in the country, and had uſed ſeveral remedies to no purpoſe. At laſt, hearing of the cure of the paralytic woman, whoſe caſe I ſent you ſome time ago, ſhe inſiſted on being brought hither; and underwent a courſe of electrical ſhocks for near two months, receiving every day at leaſt fifty or ſixty in the following manner. She ſat cloſe by the machine, and graſping the phial in her hand, ſhe preſented the wire to the barrel or conductor, and drew the ſparks from it for about half a minute. The phial being thus charged, ſhe then touched her knee with the wire, and thereby received ſuch ſevere ſtrokes, as would ſometimes inſtantly raiſe a bliſter on the part. The joint was at laſt ſo much relaxed, as that ſhe could walk home with the help of a crutch, tho' her leg was ſo weak, that ſhe had very little uſe of it. After

* For the firſt account, ſee part firſt, p. 392.

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ſhe had continued in this ſtate for ſome weeks, ſhe was adviſed to uſe the cold bath: but that ſoon brought back the contraction; and I have been ſince informed that ſhe was worſe than ever.

A ſoldier's wife, a genteel looking woman, of about 30 years of age, was ſeized with a ſlight palſy, about Newcaſtle, on her way to this country: but before ſhe got to this place, ſhe had loſt all the feeling in her left ſide, and ſo far the power of it, that ſhe was brought to us in a cart. After receiving 600 ſtrokes from the electrical machine in the uſual way, and in the ſpace of two days, ſhe recovered the uſe of her ſide, and ſet out on foot to make out the reſt of her journey. However, for fear of a relapſe, I gave her a recommendatory letter to Mr. Sommer, Surgeon at Haddington, as ſhe was to paſs thro' that town, and as I knew that he was likewiſe provided with an electrical apparatus.

A young woman from *Home*, a village in this ſhire, but at a good diſtance, complained of a coldneſs and inſenſibility in her left hand and wriſt, of two years ſtanding. When I felt that hand, it was as cold as a ſtone, whilſt the other was ſweating; and ſhe told me, that it never had been warmer all that time. I made her draw the ſparks from an egg (which for ſome other purpoſe was ſuſpended by a wire from the conductor) for about half an hour; and at the end of that time I found the dead hand in a far greater ſweat than the other. She then wrapt it up in a piece of flannel, as ſhe uſed to do, and retired. Next day ſhe told me, that ſince the operation ſhe had been able to put off and on her cloaths without help,

help, which ſhe had not been able to do for a twelvemonth before. She was again electriſed; and believing ſhe was then quite well, ſhe went away: but ſome weeks after, upon the coldneſs of her hand beginning to return, ſhe made me another viſit, was again electriſed, and was diſmiſſed a ſecond time apparently cured. This is about two months ago, and I have heard nothing of her ſince.

As theſe two laſt women are at ſuch a diſtance, I cannot pretend to ſend you their own teſtimony of their cure. But for the two caſes in the ſeparate paper, as the perſons are inhabitants of this place, I have taken care that they themſelves ſhould ſign them, along with my father; ſince you have acquainted me, that accounts of this kind ſhould have the atteſtation both of the patients and the miniſter of the pariſh.

I ſhall only add here, that ſeveral perſons have been relieved of rheumatic pains, by electriſing the parts affected. And a woman was cured of a deafneſs of ſix months ſtanding, contracted, as ſhe imagined, by cold. This woman held the phial in her hand, whilſt another perſon ſtanding on a cake of reſin gave her the ſhock, by putting the end of the wire into her ear. This manner of electriſing brought always on a profuſe ſweat over the head, which we encouraged, by wrapping it up in flannel. The firſt day ſhe came here, ſhe could ſcarce hear what was ſpoken by thoſe about her; but in five days ſhe ſeemed to be perfectly cured.

I am, *&c.*

Patrick Brydone.

Copy of the ſeparate Paper before mentioned.

Robert Haigs, of Coldinghame, a labouring man of about 45, after having been for ten days ill of a regular tertian ague, at my deſire underwent the electrical ſhocks in the common way. After having received about thirty or forty very ſevere ones, he grew pale, and ſtaggering for ſeveral ſteps, would have fallen down, had he not been ſupported. He then fell into a ſweat, which continued near half an hour. I deſired him to come back the next morning, immediately before the fit, which he ſaid came on about ten o'clock. He accordingly came, and told me he had not the uſual ſymptoms preceding the fit. He was that day again ſtrongly electriſed; and has been without any aguiſh ſymptom ever ſince; *viz.* for the ſpace of four months.

The truth of this is atteſted by

ROBERT HAIGS, *the perſon cured.*

ROB^{T}. BRYDONE, *Miniſter of Coldinghame.*

Ann Torry, of Coldinghame, a young woman of about 20, had a regular tertian (being the firſt time ſhe ever had the ague) for near a fortnight. The fit came on early in the morning. She was electriſed on her well day in the afternoon; and the next morning, having had only a ſlight ſhivering, ſhe was

was electriſed again about ten o' clock, and has had no ſymptom of the ague ſince; *viz.* for three months.

The above is atteſted by

ANN TORRY, *the perſon cured.*

ROBT. BRYDONE, *Miniſter of Coldinghame.*

XCV. *An Account of the Black Aſſize at* Oxford, *from the Regiſter of* Merton College *in that Univerſity. Communicated by* John Ward, *LL. D. With ſome additional Remarks.*

Anno nono D. Bickley *Cuſtodis*, 1577.

Read May 25, 1758. VIceſſimo (1) primo Julii in veſtiario Dñus cuſtos et octo Seniores diſpenſarunt cum *Decreto de concione et appictantia habendis, die Dominico poſt feſtum Sti Petri ad vincula*; ne vocata et conveniente turba, morbus ille, qui ante quinque dies quamplurimos infeſtarat, diſſipatior et periculoſior fiat. Etenim 15, 16, et 17, hujus Julii aegrotant plus minus trecenti homines; et infra duodecim dierum ſpatium mortui ſunt (ne quid errem) centum ſcholares, praeter cives non paucos. Tempus ſine dubio calamitoſiſſimum et luctu plenum.

(1) Sic in regiſt. et poſtea haud ſemel.